

[0044] **What is claimed is:**

1. A method for obtaining presence information comprising the steps of:
 - a. receiving a request for presence information, the request comprising an indication of one or more criteria associated with presence entities;
 - b. retrieving presence information for each one of a plurality of presence entities; and
 - c. filtering the presence information of the plurality of presence entities based on the one or more criteria for determining those presence entities of the plurality of presence entities that match the one or more criteria.
2. The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:
 - d. responsive to the request, sending to a watcher a response message comprising the presence information of those presence entities that match the one or more criteria.
3. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the request further comprises identifications of each one of the plurality of presence entities.
4. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of presence entities corresponds to a default value.
5. The method claimed in claim 2, wherein the request comprises a subscription message and the response message comprises a notification message.
6. The method claimed in claim 2, wherein the response message comprise an XML file containing presence information of those presence entities that match the one or more criteria.

7. The method claimed in claim 2, wherein:
 - step a. comprises the step of:
 - a.1. receiving the request at a Web Service Gateway (WSG) for presence;
 - step b. comprises the step of:
 - 5 b.1 retrieving from a presence database of a presence server, by a presence Information Retriever module of the WSG for presence, presence information of each one of the presence entities of the plurality of presence entities;
 - step c. comprises the step of:
 - 10 c.1 filtering by a filtering module of the WSG for presence the presence information based on the one or more criteria for determining those presence entities that match the one or more criteria.
8. The method claimed in claim 2, wherein:
 - step a. comprises the step of:
 - a.1. receiving the request at a service logic of a presence server;
 - step b. comprises the step of:
 - 5 b.1 retrieving by a presence Information Retriever module of the service logic the presence information for each one of the presence entities of the plurality of presence entities from a presence database of a presence server;
 - step c. comprises the step of:
 - 10 c.1 filtering by a filtering module of the service logic the presence information based on the one or more criteria for determining those presence entities that match the one or more criteria.
9. The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising prior to step a. the steps of:
 - d. receiving presence information from each one of the plurality of presence entities; and
 - e. storing the presence information received from each one of the plurality of presence entities in a presence database.

10. A Web Service Gateway (WSG) for presence, comprising:

a watcher interface receiving a request for presence information, the request comprising an indication of one or more criteria associated with presence entities;

a presence Information Retriever module that retrieves presence information for each one of a plurality

5 of presence entities from a presence server; and

a Filtering module that filters the presence information based on the one or more criteria for determining those presence entities from the plurality of presence entities that match the one or more criteria.

11. The WSG for presence claimed in claim 10, wherein responsive to the request, the watcher interface sends to a watcher a response message comprising the presence information of those presence entities that match the one or more criteria.

12. The method claimed in claim 10, wherein the request further comprises identifications of each one of the plurality of presence entities.

13. The method claimed in claim 10, wherein the plurality of presence entities corresponds to a default value.

14. The WSG for presence claimed in claim 11, wherein the request comprises a subscription message and the response message comprises a notification message.

15. The WSG for presence claimed in claim 11, wherein the response message comprise an XML file containing the presence information of those presence entities that match the one or more criteria.

16. A presence server comprising:
 - a presence database storing presence information related to presence entities;
 - a service logic module receiving a request for presence information, the request comprising an indication of one or more criteria associated with presence entities;
 - 5 a presence Information Retriever module that retrieves from the presence database presence information for each one of the plurality of presence entities; and
 - a Filtering module that filters the presence information of each one of the plurality of presence entities based on the one or more criteria for determining those presence entities that match the one or more criteria.
17. The presence server claimed in claim 16, wherein the presence Information Retriever module and the Filtering module are comprised in the service logic module.
18. The presence server claimed in claim 16, wherein the request further comprises identifications of each one of the plurality of presence entities.
19. The method claimed in claim 16, wherein the plurality of presence entities corresponds to a default value.
20. The presence server claimed in claim 16, wherein the Presence Information Retriever module sends individual requests for presence information to the presence database for each one of the plurality of presence entities, and gets back from the presence database presence information relative to each one of the plurality of presence entities.